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Cuyamaca Rancho State Park
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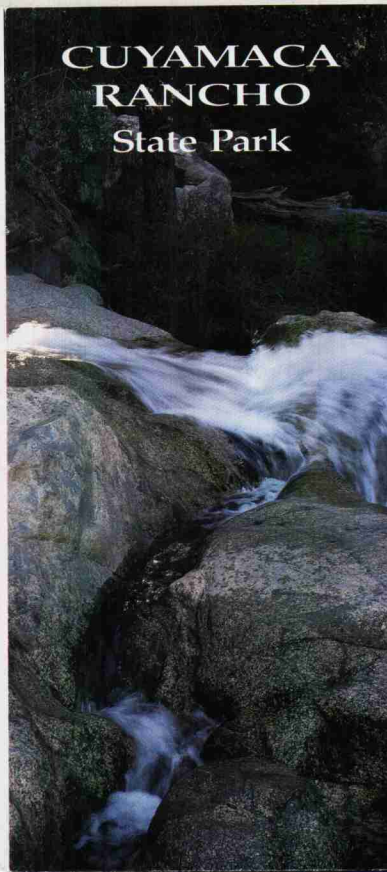


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Revised 5/93

CUYAMACA RANCHO State Park



Just forty miles east of San Diego, Cuyamaca Rancho State Park offers beautiful pine and oak forests, broad meadows, and little streams that are a special delight in the generally dry Southern California landscape. The park is located in the Peninsular Range of mountains; from Cuyamaca Peak, at 6512 feet the second highest point in San Diego County, you can see Anza-Borrego Desert State Park in the Colorado Desert to the east or the Pacific coastline to the west.

Nearly 13,000 of the park's 25,000 acres is classified as Wilderness — all vehicles, even bicycles, are prohibited, so that you can enjoy an area unmarred by modern intrusions.

HISTORY

The Indians who lived here for at least seven thousand years before the Spanish came called the area *Ah-ha-Kwe-ah-mac* — "the place where it rains." They were the Kumeya'ay, a proud and fiercely independent people. A Spanish military expedition that came through the area in 1782 found them friendly and willing to trade, but they resisted moving to mission establishments and adopting Christian ways. Instead, they lived in their traditional way — summering in the mountains and wintering on the desert to the east or the foothills to the west — and preserved the customs of their forefathers, defending themselves and their land from intruders as best they could. There was conflict until 1837, when a battle between the Kumeya'ay and a Mexican military expedition of 18 soldiers and about thirty of their Indian allies led to a treaty in which the Kumeya'ay promised never to bother Spanish settlements or livestock again.

In 1845 California's Mexican governor, Pio Pico, granted Rancho Cuyamaca to Augustin Olvera, who planned to make a fortune by converting the forests into lumber. In 1847 to '48 he sent Cesario Walker into the mountains to build a lumber mill and cut trees but, he said, the Indians "made a kind of revolution, and Walker abandoned the place."

The earliest non-Indian settler in the area was James Lassator, who homesteaded 160 acres in Green Valley in 1855. Lassator paid the Indians for

the land he wanted and got along well with them. They permitted him to live peacefully near one of their summer village sites — he built a stone house for his family just south of the present park headquarters. Soon after, the San Antonio-San Diego stage line began a route through Green Valley, following an old Indian trail from the desert to the coast.

In the 1860s, gold was discovered in the Julian area, so Chinese and Europeans flooded in to work mines north of the present park boundaries. In the spring of 1870 gold-bearing quartz ledges were discovered, and within hours a gold rush was under way. Hundreds of miners and prospectors poured into the mountains, and the few native people still living there were finally forced to move onto a reservation.

By 1872 the town of Cuyamaca had grown up around Stonewall Mine, inside the park just south of Cuyamaca Lake. It was the most extensively developed mine in the region — at its peak, 1886-1891, it employed two hundred men. During this period the mine and much of the surrounding countryside were owned by Robert W. Waterman, Governor of California from 1887 to 1891. But the mine ran into problems after Waterman's death in 1891, and by 1892 the 630-foot main shaft was permanently sealed. The mine had yielded over \$2 million in gold at prices of \$16-\$20 per ounce. The town survived for a time as a summer resort, but eventually disappeared.

The rancho property had changed hands several times when Mr. and Mrs. Ralph M. Dyar bought it in 1923. The Dyars built a beautiful home in Green Valley, perhaps using some of the native stone from the ruins of the house that Lassator had built in 1855. Today, their home houses the park headquarters and museum.

In 1933 Dyar sold the property to the state for half of its appraised value, thus generously helping to create Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. Harvey Moore, the Dyars' ranch foreman, became the new park's first ranger, and served as park supervisor until he retired in 1955. With the help of the Civilian Conservation Corps, Moore built the park's first trails and campgrounds; his efforts are remembered in the Harvey Moore Trail through the beautiful East Mesa area of the park.

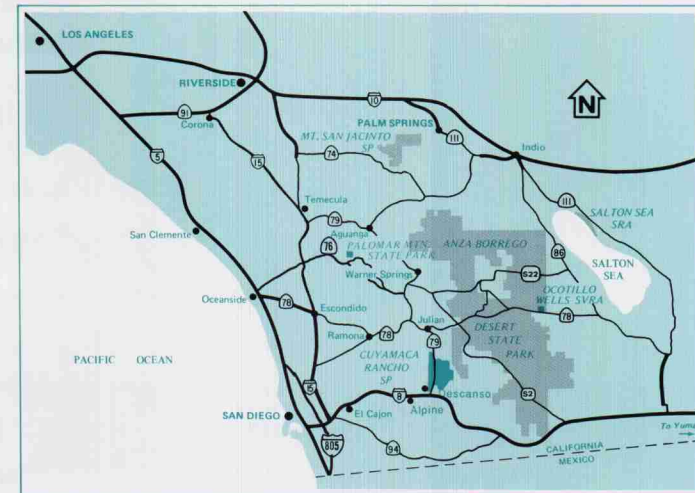
Cuyamaca's Natural History

Many first-time visitors are surprised to find such a richly forested area in Southern California. Among the magnificent stands of oak trees are some of California's largest canyon live oaks, and the small spring-fed streams support a variety of riparian trees such as willow, alder, and sycamore. Perhaps most surprising are the dense forests of tall cone-bearing trees — incense cedar, white fir, and four varieties of pine: Coulter, sugar, ponderosa, and Jeffrey.

At the park's altitude of over four thousand feet, the seasons produce spectacular color changes. Spring wildflower blooms bring a rainbow of color to the meadows and hillsides; summer changes the green meadows to yellow; and fall

clothes the deciduous trees in gold and red. With the arrival of winter, all is covered with a mantle of white snow.

These seasonal changes and the diversity of vegetation provide habitats for a wide variety of wildlife. Southern mule deer, raccoons, squirrels, and coyotes are common; you may also see gray foxes, striped and spotted skunks, badgers, bobcats, and mountain lions. Over a hundred species of birds frequent the park. Some, such as gulls, canvas back ducks, and even an occasional brown pelican, are normally seen along the coast, and there are also some desert birds — for instance, scrub jays, burrowing owls, and sage sparrows. A bird list is available at park headquarters.



When You Visit The Area

Trails

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park has well over a hundred miles of riding and hiking trails. The popular 3.5-mile **Cuyamaca Peak Trail**, which is moderately difficult, climbs to the summit for a spectacular view of the ocean, the desert, Mexico, and the Salton Sea. Or you can take the 2-mile trail to the top of **Stonewall Peak**, overlooking the site of the old mine; though it climbs from 4800 to 5700 feet in elevation, the trail's many switchbacks make the hike only moderately difficult. The difficult 9-mile **Harvey Moore Trail** begins near the Sweetwater River Bridge half a mile north of Green Valley, goes to the scenic East Mesa, passes the Granite Spring Trail Camp, and continues through Harper Creek Canyon — allow eight hours for the round trip. And the short, easy **Paso Self-Guided Nature Trail** at the Paso Picacho picnic area will introduce you to native plants.

Exhibits

The exhibit at the Stonewall Mine site offers a pictorial history of the greatest of Southern California's gold mines. At the park's interpretive center at Paso Picacho are exhibits on the plants and animals of the region, and the museum at park headquarters tells the story of the native people who lived here for centuries.



Stonewall Mine as it appeared in 1900.

Picnicking

Developed picnic areas with tables, barbecue stoves, and restrooms accessible to people in wheelchairs are available at Paso Picacho in the northern part of the park and Green Valley in the southern part. There's also a group picnic area at Paso Picacho that will accommodate up to 75.

When You Go Hiking:

- * Hike with a partner . . . and a map.
- * Take a snack along . . . you may need some additional energy before you get back.
- * Carry a canteen; your body uses a gallon of water a day when you're hiking.
- * Take along adequate clothing, and be alert for changes in the weather.
- * Hike by the clock, not the miles — be sure you have enough time to get back before dark, or carry a flashlight.
- * Wear sturdy, comfortable footwear.
- * Observe animals from a distance — after all, it's their home. The best viewing is at dawn and dusk.



FIRE

Since the beginning of time, natural lightning-caused fires have influenced the plants and animals of Cuyamaca, and archeologists have confirmed that the Indians used fire to improve the range for game and encourage the growth of edible plants. The European settlers, however, did their best to prevent fires, so that an unnatural amount of dead plant material accumulated. This debris has created tremendous fire hazards throughout the park — in 1950, the Conejos fire burned about half the park's acreage, and in 1970 the top of Cuyamaca Peak was burned.

To reduce the fire hazard, a prescribed burn program has been started. Portions of the park are burned systematically when environmental conditions are right, and with several government agencies working to ensure safety. Under this program natural landscapes will be restored, and the amount of fuel available will be reduced. This will also reduce the probability of catastrophic wildfires.

But wildfires are still a threat, and will be for many years to come. Please be careful to observe the park rules regarding fires, and report any fires you see to the nearest ranger station.

Camping at Cuyamaca

FAMILY CAMPSITES are available at **Paso Picacho** (85 sites) and **Green Valley** (81 sites). Individual sites have tables and fire rings. Piped drinking water and wheelchair-accessible restrooms are nearby. The sites at Paso Picacho will accommodate trailers up to 24 feet long and motorhomes up to 30 feet though there are no hookups. The sites at Green Valley will accommodate trailers up to 27 feet long and motorhomes up to 30 feet. A trailer sanitation station is located at Paso Picacho.

Two **GROUP CAMPSITES** that will accommodate up to 60 people each are located at Paso Picacho; they can be reserved together for groups up to 120. They have piped drinking water, tables, barbecue stoves, and restrooms with hot showers that are accessible to people in wheelchairs. Recreational vehicles are not allowed in these campsites because of their limited parking space.

ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPSITES near the Paso Picacho family campground offer a chance to "get away from it all" and enjoy more primitive camping conditions. Each site has a table, fire ring and pit toilet; you must carry in drinking water, and hike in a short distance to your campsite. You must check into these sites at least an hour before dark, as they are in a steep, unlighted area.

FAMILY EQUESTRIAN CAMPSITES are at **Los Caballos Campground**, southeast of Cuyamaca Lake on the California Riding and Hiking Trail. The campground has 16 developed sites with two metal corrals each as well as tables, barbecue stoves, piped water, and restrooms with hot showers. A few additional corrals are available at a nearby equestrian day use area.

GROUP EQUESTRIAN CAMPING is available at **Los Vaqueros Campground**, which will accommodate up to 80 people and 45 horses in corrals. There are tables, water, and restrooms with hot showers.

PRIMITIVE TRAIL CAMPS are located at **Arroyo Seco** and **Granite Springs**. Each of these areas has three family campsites (maximum capacity: eight people) and one group site that will accommodate up to 16 people. Pit toilets are available at these sites and water is seasonally available, but you might want to bring in water to Granite Springs because the water there has a strong iron taste. Campfires are prohibited though you can use backpack stoves for cooking. Horse corrals are available at each camp, but equestrians should pack in feed because grazing is not allowed. To use the trail camps, register at park headquarters, the Paso Picacho kiosk, or the Green Valley campground. These sites are in an unlighted, remote area and so it is advisable to check in at least an hour before dark.

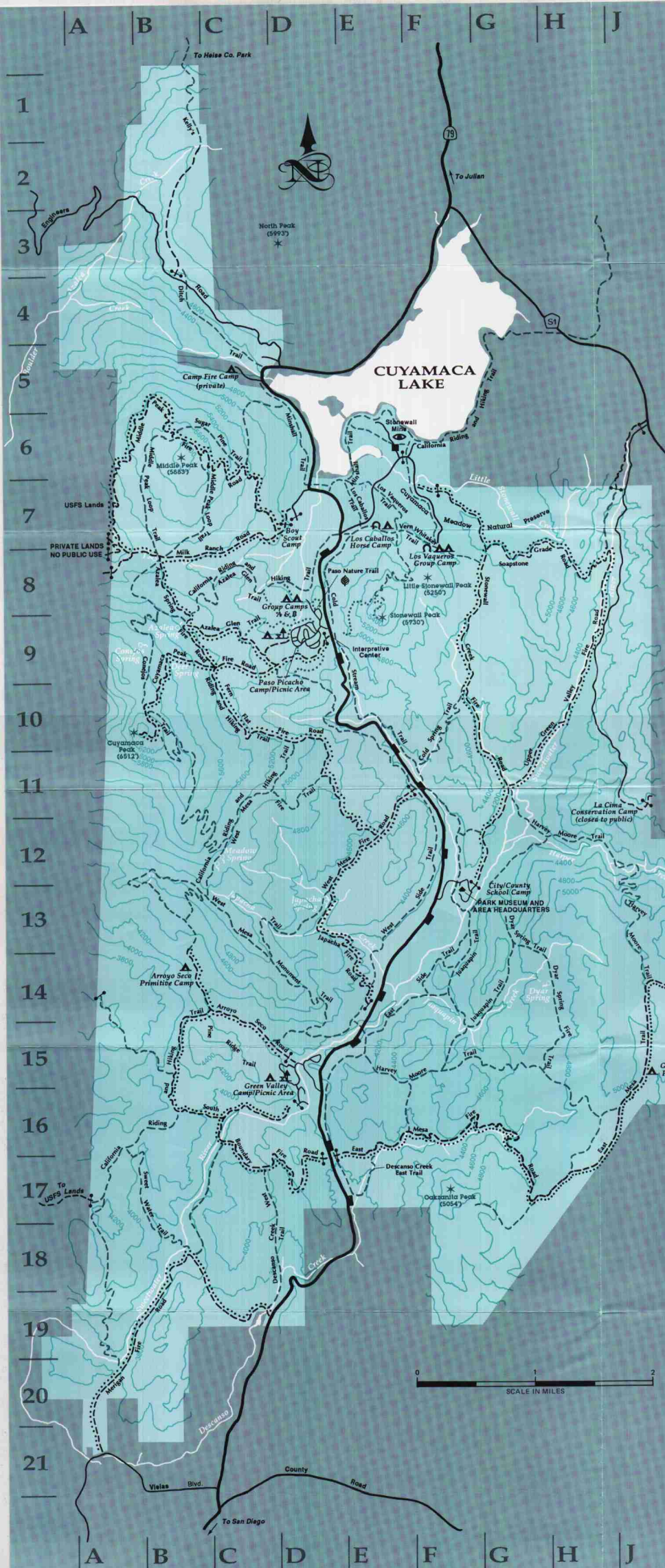
RESERVATION INFORMATION

Campsite reservations can be made up to eight weeks in advance by calling MISTIX at 1-800-444-7275 and using your VISA, Mastercard, or American Express account. Group campsite reservations can be made up to twelve weeks in advance.

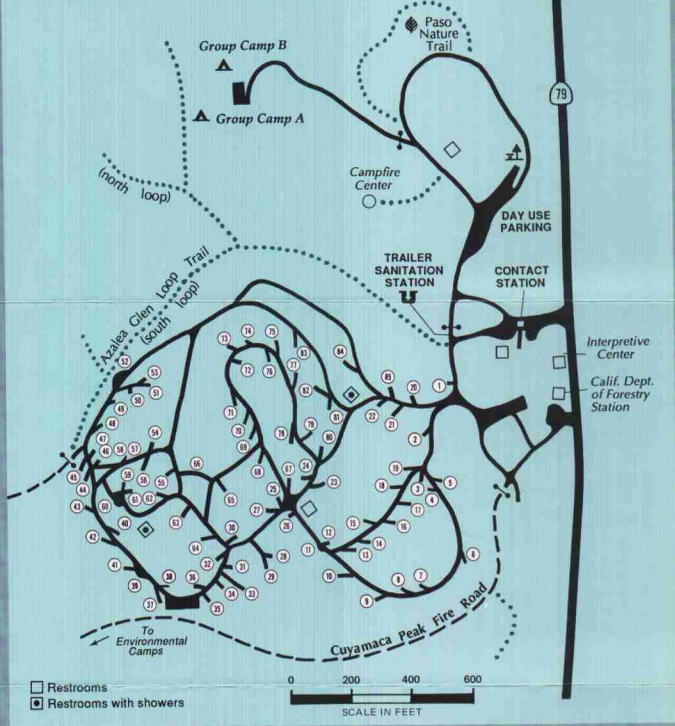
Please Remember

Take a couple of minutes to read these rules — help assure safe and enjoyable visits for everyone.

- * If a ranger is not on duty, pay fees for use of camp and picnic sites at the self-pay station provided.
- * Build fires only in park stoves. Your gasoline-type stove is OK, but use portable hibachis and barbecues only where you can dispose of the coals in a park stove. Ground fires pose a serious threat, and leave unsightly scars.
- * Help protect park resources — camp only in designated sites. Don't hang clotheslines, swings, lanterns, etc. from trees.
- * Park in the parking spurs provided; drive only on roadways.
- * Dump waste water in a toilet or at the dump station.
- * Dogs must be kept on leash (six foot maximum length) or in your tent or vehicle at night. Dogs are allowed in picnic areas and in the campgrounds (except the environmental camps or primitive trail camps), but they are not allowed on trails or in park buildings. You will win the gratitude of other campers (and park staff!) if you clean up after your pet.
- * Leave dead wood, pine cones, plants, arrowheads, pottery, and other artifacts where you find them. Tell a park employee about any Indian relics you find, so our staff can study them in their surroundings to learn more about the native people who once lived here. Collecting plants removes valuable nutrients from the natural cycle — and this year's flowers supply next year's seeds.
- * Grazing is not allowed — pack in feed for your horse.



Detail of Paso Picacho Campground



- PAVED ROADS
- FIRE ROADS (no private vehicles)
- RIDING AND HIKING TRAILS
- HIKING TRAIL ONLY (no horses)
- ROADSIDE PARKING (subject to regulations)
- MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL - speed limit - 15 mph. All other trails are closed to mountain bikes.
- PARK AREAS
- WILDERNESS/PRESERVE AREAS
- LOCKED GATES (no vehicle access)

HIKING TRAILS - Distance in miles

TO	FROM GREEN VALLEY	FROM PASO PICACHO
Japacha Spring	1	6.5
Arroyo Seco	1.5	8
Airplane Monument	2	6
Granite Spring	4.5	7.5
Stonewall Peak	7	2
Azalea Spring	7	1
Azalea Glen	8	1.2
Cuyamaca Peak	8	3.5
Middle Peak	9	4

RIDING TRAILS - Distance in miles

From Los Caballos to:

Azalea Spring	3.2
Dyar Spring	6.2
Sweetwater Bridge	6.5
Granite Springs	7.2
Arroyo Seco	7.8
South border on R & H Trail	11.2
Wm. Heise Co. Park (on Kelly's Ditch Trail)	6+

Detail of Green Valley Campground

